

# **Montana Newsletter**

***Montana State Library***

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# MONTANA NEWSLETTER

STATE DOCUMENTS

JAN 13 1972

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY

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Volume 7

January 4, 1972

No. 1

PACIFIC NORTHWEST BIBLIOGRAPHIC CENTER Requests from Montana libraries continue to increase in number as the entire northwest region makes greater use of the resources and services of PNBC. During the 1970-71 fiscal year, a total of 1,688 requests from Montana were forwarded to PNBC for action. During the same year, PNBC staff handled 21,143 requests for location information in interlibrary loan, an increase of 18.6 percent over the previous fiscal year.

In 1970-71 PNBC's capacity for service was increased by the following improvements:

- Installation of TELEX and TWX communication systems, permitting more rapid and efficient communication within the region as well as with other bibliographic centers and major libraries outside the northwest

- Provision of photocopies of journal material rather than location information, when such material is held at the University of Washington. Beginning in November 1970, this service delivered more than 12,000 pages of Xerox copy to region libraries by the end of the fiscal year, most of it mailed to the requesting library the day the request was received at PNBC. The cost of this copy service is borne by the PNBC budget.

- Elimination of filing backlogs by means of an improved coding system and the availability of extra staff hours to "catch up" on a major backlog of cards. (Over 290,000 cards were sent to PNBC by northwest libraries during the year for inclusion in the union catalog.)

Since the beginning of the present fiscal year, the union catalog has been further enriched by inclusion of selected holdings from the University of Alaska Library and the Montana State Library, and by new acquisitions of the libraries of Washington State University, Western Washington State College, Eastern Washington State College, and Central Washington State College. Also, the catalogs of the latter four libraries have been microfilmed at PNBC expense and a reader-printer purchased for PNBC, giving access to the entire resources of these institutions.

Montana libraries whose current acquisitions are shown in the PNBC union catalog are the libraries of the University of Montana, Montana State University, Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology, the State Historical Society Library, and the Montana State Library.

Since its reorganization in 1970, PNBC's funding has been shared by the member states (Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Idaho), with each state responsible for a portion of the budget equal to its percentage of the total population of the region. At the time of reorganization, British Columbia libraries did not choose to participate on this basis, but those which continue to use PNBC service pay an individual library fee.

The Montana State Library Commission sought funds from the 1971 legislature to pay the entire cost of PNBC service for all Montana libraries; although the concept met with favorable reaction by the budget office and several members of the legislature, funds were not forthcoming. Therefore, during the present year, the state's share is made up of fees

paid by those libraries which over the years had maintained memberships in PNBC, and by funds from Title III of the Library Services and Construction Act. Of the operating budget for 1971-72, \$150,236, Montana's share is \$14,423. Fees from individual libraries are estimated to amount to \$5,100; the State Library will pay the balance from Title III funds.

The following chart shows requests sent to PNBC, requests sent by PNBC to be filled, and cards contributed to the union catalog, by state, 1970-71:

	Percent of population	Requests received by PNBC		Requests sent by PNBC to be filled		Cards sent to PNBC union catalog
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Alaska	4.2	912	4.55	0	0	0
Idaho	9.9	1,733	8.64	590	4.52	28,404
Montana	9.6	1,688	8.42	355	2.57	19,000
Oregon	29.0	4,555	22.72	2,902	22.23	85,898
Washington	47.3	11,161	55.67	9,223	70.67	79,070*
sub-totals	100.0	20,049	100.00	13,050	99.99	212,372
British Columbia		1,094	5.17	622	4.55	78,490
sub-totals		21,143		13,672		290,862

Requests filled by photocopies  
made by PNBC from materials in  
University of Washington

1,174

Requests sent to libraries in  
region whose cards are not in  
catalog

3,998

Totals

21,143

18,844

290,862

\*cards from the University of Washington library are not included in the union catalog.

Funded by the U. S. Office of Education, a research study now in progress at PNBC is examining the operations of the center, looking at the costs, characteristics, and functions of the center's activities. Results of the study, expected later this year, will give the Board of Directors guidance in determining future policies and courses of action.

ACQUISITIONS LIST With this newsletter the fifth in a series, Recent Acquisitions of the Montana State Library, is being distributed to public, secondary school, and academic libraries in Montana. All titles on the list are available on loan from the State Library.

JOHN COTTON DANA LIBRARY The State Library has a supply of entry forms and rules for the PUBLIC RELATIONS AWARDS John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Awards contest. The contest, established to recognize those librarians who most effectively stimulate community interest and involvement in their libraries, is open to public, academic, school, military, and special libraries. Entry forms may be requested from the State Library.

David R. Hoffman  
State Librarian